

**Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia on Afghanistan**

*November 13, 2001*

We express our continued support for the people of Afghanistan in their effort to establish a government that can bring peace and stability to Afghanistan, close down terrorist camps, and end Afghanistan's use as a platform for international terrorists. We agree that a new Afghan government should adhere to accepted international principles, respect human rights, including those of women and girls, facilitate delivery of aid to combat the current humanitarian crisis, and rebuild Afghanistan and the region economically.

The United States and Russia do not intend to, and cannot, create the future government of Afghanistan. It is up to the Afghans themselves to determine their future. We believe that, in order for any future government to bring peace to the people of Afghanistan and promote stability in the region, it must be broad-based, represent all Afghans, men and women, and be drawn from all ethnic groups. We agree that the Taliban as a movement should have no place in future bodies of state power in Afghanistan.

We welcome the appointment of Ambassador Lakhdar Brahimi as the United Nations Secretary General's Special Representative for Afghanistan and underscore our support for his efforts to bring peace and stability to Afghanistan and the region.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

**Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia on the Middle East**

*November 13, 2001*

We express our deep concern over the situation in the Middle East, which has led to untold suffering by Palestinians and Israelis during the past year. The violence and terror must end.

The United States and Russia, as cosponsors of the Middle East peace process, call upon the leadership of Israel and the Pales-

tinian Authority to take urgent steps to ease tension, as well as to refrain from actions that are harmful to the other side and to resume the dialogue at a high political level. It is also necessary to proceed without delay towards the implementation of the Tenet workplan and the Mitchell Report recommendations: to end the violence, to set up stable cooperation in the area of security, to implement confidence-building measures, and to resume the substantive negotiating process.

Our two nations, acting in concert with other key parties, are stepping up their efforts aimed at facilitating early resolution of the crisis in the region and resuming negotiations on all tracks—Palestinian, Syrian, and Lebanese—in the interests of making progress toward a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East, based on the Madrid principles, UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and existing agreements and accords.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

**Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia on Cooperation Against Bioterrorism**

*November 13, 2001*

At Shanghai, we resolved to enhance cooperation in combating new terrorist threats, including those involving weapons of mass destruction.

We agree that, as a key element of our cooperation to counter the threat of terrorist use of biological materials, officials and experts of the United States and Russia will work together on means for countering the threat of bioterrorism, now faced by all nations, and on related health measures, including preventive ones, treatment and possible consequence management. We will continue to work to enhance the security of materials, facilities, expertise, and technologies that can be exploited by bioterrorists. We also confirm our strong commitment to the 1972 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological